

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
C/O Jack Travelstead /Sonya Davis

8 September, 2006

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Members:

As a recreational fisherman I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the various projects seeking license fund support during fall 2006. I would like to thank you for the excellent job you have done representing the interest of recreational fishermen in the state of Virginia.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

A) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2007. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$225,000. Partial Support**, this request should be fully financed by the Commercial sector not a small portion of the request, since all the funds are derived from Recreational fishermen. For future requests for this project, the RFAB should make a statement that it should be fully funded by the Commercial sector.

B) 2007 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 10). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association. **\$6,000. Support**

C) 2007 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 6). W. Brown, A. Nogiec, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,000. Support**

D) 2007 CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day (Year 10). T. Johnson, D. Hickman, B. Dieffenbach, Coastal Conservation Association, Tidewater Chapter. **\$6,000. Support**

E) Sheepshead Population Dynamics in Chesapeake Bay , Virginia (Year 2). H. Liao, S. Haga, C. Jones, ODURF/CQFE. **\$65,777. Support**

F) Artificial Reef, Funding for Deployment of Structure 2006-2007. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$200,000. Support**, this project has a great success record as a outstanding benefit to the recreational fishermen, I request that the RFAB as a minimum, double the requested amount to help establish the two newly approved reef sites and a new one that is in the approval process.

G) 2007 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 13). J. Lucy, VIMS and C. Bain, VMRC. **\$64,787. Support**

New Projects.

H) Ocean View Recreational Fishing and Education Pier. Stanley Stein, Assistant City Manager, Norfolk. **\$215,850. SUPPORT**

I) Monitoring Mycobacteriosis in Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis*: Tracking the State of the Epizootic. D. Gauthier, W. Vogelbein, K. Reece, VIMS. **\$59,312. Partial Support, Commercial Fishermen should Support remaining balance**

J) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) as essential fish habitat in lower Chesapeake Bay : Linking variation in SAV, forage animal production, and sportfish abundance. J. E. Duffy, R. Latour, J. van Montfrans, VIMS. **\$69,268. Do Not Support, I have not seen any benefits or actions taken from previous studies.**

K) A Genetic Assessment of the Potential for Local Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) within Chesapeake Bay . J. Graves, J. McDowell, R. Latour, A. Lynch, VIMS. **\$57,172. Support**

L) Utility of Alternative Reefs to Simultaneously Enhance Recreational Fish Production and Oyster Restoration. Rom Lipcius, VIMS. **\$199,643. Support, this project and the following one should be combined together as one request; they both are related to each other. This proposal should also be modified to take one of the prototype reefs and deploy it into deeper water, that way a good evaluation can be determined if the structure would be beneficial for use in the on-going artificial reef program.**

M) Prey Availability and Enhanced Production of Artificial Reefs for Recreational Fish and Native Oysters. Rochelle Seitz, VIMS. **\$45,944. SUPPORT**

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on the disbursement of our recreational license money.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Agee